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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, YO

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

REF: (A) USNATO 2628, (B) BELGRADE 2298

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLADS ON MAY 15 BEGAN DISCUSSION OF IS PAPER ON INTERNAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA. IN ADDITION TO SUGGESTING SOME CHANGES, THE TWO POLADS WHO SPOKE ON INSTRUCTIONS ACCEPTED BASIC THRUST OF PAPER, SO U.S. REM RELAYED EMB BELGRADE'S PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT PAPER WAS OVERDRAWN AND EXAGGERATED. UK REP AGREED. NETHERLANDS REP SUGGESTED BROADENING SCOPE OF PAPER TO INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL FACTORS, AND IDEA U.S. REP PERSONALLY THOUGHT INADVISABLE. ACTION REQUESTED: FURTHER U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO PAPER AND INSTRUCTIONS ON SUGGESTION TO BROADEN ITS SCOPE.

END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 15, POLADS MADE FIRST COMMENTS ON IS PAPER ABOUT INTERNAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA (REF A). ITALIAN REP INDICATED ROME ACCEPTED BASIC THRUST OF PAPER, BUT WANTED TO ADD THOUGHT THAT RECENT YUGOSLAV ACTIONS REGARDING TRIESTE WERE RELATED TO ENHANCED POSITION OF SLOVENIA WITHIN FEDERATED STRUCTURE. THIS ENHANCED SLOVENIAN POSITION RESULTED FROM RECENT PURGES IN OTHER REPUBLICS AND FROM TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN BELGRADE AND

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LJUBLJANA ON FEDERAL ISSUES. IN SECTION ON ECONOMIC SITUATION, ITALY ALSO WANTED TO CITE YUGOSLAVIA'S COMPARATIVELY HEAVIER DEPENDENCE ON EC COUNTRIES THAN ON U.S. FOR TECHNOLOGY, CAPITAL AND INVISIBLE EARNINGS.

2. DANISH REP SAID COPENHAGEN GENERALLY AGREED WITH PAPER, BUT THOUGHT NEW CONSTITUTION WAS ONLY A STEP IN WHAT COULD BE A CONTINUING PROCESS TO ADJUST FEDERAL-REGIONAL BALANCE. ALSO, REGIONAL DECENTRALIZATION HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY CLOSER COORDINATION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. COPENHAGEN DISAGREED WITH SUGGESTION IN CONCLUSION SECTION THAT TITO COULD LOSE CONTROL.

3. SINCE NEITHER PREVIOUS SPEAKER HAD QUESTIONED BASIC THRUST OF PAPER, U.S. REP INDICATED THAT WHILE NEITHER WASHINGTON NOR EMBASSY BELGRADE HAD YET HAD TIME FOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION AND COMMENTS, EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT PAPER WAS OVERDRAWN AND EXAGGERATED REGARDING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. UK REP AGREED, SAYING LONDON'S PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT PAPER WAS OVER-WRITTEN.

4. AS TO SCOPE, NETHERLANDS REP SUGGESTED BROADENING PAPER TO COVER INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, SINCE INTERNATIONAL FACTORS IMPINGED ON INTERNAL EVENTS.

5. U.S. REP GAVE PERSONAL VIEW THAT DUTCH SUGGESTION WOULD COMPLICATE AND GO BEYOND POLADS MANDATE TO PREPARE A GOOD AND TIMELY ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL SITUATION. EXTERNAL FACTORS COULD PERHAPS BE MENTIONED IF STRICTLY RELEVANT TO INTERNAL SCOPE OF PAPER.

6. DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK AND WE WILL WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY'S FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS. ALSO NEED DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON NETHERLANDS SUGGESTION TO BROADEN PAPER'S SCOPE.

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